

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Parks and Recreation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 13, 2012, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Baxter, Gilbert, Greenberg,
Hays, Mayeda, Ning, and Chairperson Taniguchi.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Community Services Director Jones, Senior Business
Manager Minter, Recreation Services Manager Brunette,
Park Services Manager Carson, and Senior Recreation
Supervisor Kelso.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Mayeda led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

Chairperson Taniguchi reported that the Commission agenda for this meeting was posted on June 8, 2012. She relayed Community Services Director Jones' request that an item be added regarding Professional Landscape Design Services as Item 8D on the agenda.

MOTION: Commissioner Baxter moved to add Item 8D to the June 13, 2012 Commission agenda as immediate action is necessary and that the need arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Gilbert moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Hays seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2012

MOTION: Commissioner Ning moved for the approval of the May 9, 2012 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7A. 2012 NOMINEES FOR THE ANNUAL AWARDS

Commissioner Hays reported that the Programs Committee met twice since the last Commission meeting to discuss the Parks and Recreation Commission 2012 Annual Awards. He stated that they received a number of nominees for all three categories as listed in Attachment A and that staff was helpful in providing input and background information. He presented the Committee's recommendation for approval of awardees as follows: Individual: Elmer and Adrian Bleidistel as well as Debbie Hays; Organization: Torrance Bakery; and Staff: Allison Saufua.

Community Services Director Jones noted that all awardees have been contacted and will be present at the July 11 Annual Awards Dinner.

7B. CITY BUDGET UPDATE

Community Services Director Jones provided background and reported that Budget Hearings were held on May 8 and 15, 2012. He stated that City Council directed staff to bring forward to the City Council Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee the following areas for further review: Recreation and Cultural Classes Subsidy Levels, Madrona Marsh Nature Center and Preserve funding levels and staffing, and Senior Citizen Excursions. He advised that Commissioners would have an opportunity to provide their input at a future Commission meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. APPROVAL OF PLAY EQUIPMENT OPTIONS FOR PUEBLO PARK

Community Services Director Jones provided background and explained how the City was able to receive a discounted opportunity for play equipment through cooperative purchase. He introduced Eric Huber of Dave Bang and Associates that designs and installs Playworld Systems. He stated that the intent of tonight's meeting is for the Commission to receive input from community members, come to a decision regarding play equipment design options, and make a recommendation to move the project on to City Council for consideration.

Mr. Huber presented four options for play equipment designs, two using the existing footprint and two using an expanded footprint. He stated that Options A and B use a theme while Options C and D are non-theme; Options A and C would keep the existing grass while Options B and D would remove the strip of grass and planter separating the play equipment and picnic shelter by expanding into the grass area. He added that swings are incorporated in all options and that the covered picnic shelter would remain as is.

Community Services Director Jones pointed out that the surface would be an engineered wood product called Fibar that meets safety and ADA requirements.

Community members expressed their preference for Option D and Mr. Huber described the much larger structure that has elements for all ages but primarily for ages five to 12. He explained options for color and residents indicated that they liked the primary color scheme. He presented available options for the approximately eight activity play panels designed for younger children.

Community Services Director Jones discussed plans for the entire development of Pueblo Park that includes fencing, basketball court resurfacing, pre-fabricated bathroom, and cement walking trail.

Commissioner Gilbert stated that she talked with youth at the park and that they were excited and appreciative.

Chairperson Taniguchi thanked Mr. Huber for his presentation and received consensus from community members that they wanted to select Option D with primary colors. She commended staff for their hard work and stated that she was happy to see the project come to this point tonight.

MOTION: Commissioner Gilbert moved to approve design concept Option D for new play equipment at Pueblo Park and to proceed with an item to be approved by City Council. Commissioner Ning seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

8B. APPROVAL OF JULY IS PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH PROCLAMATION

Community Services Director Jones presented a draft 2012 Proclamation to celebrate July as Parks and Recreation Month and requested that the Commission concur in requesting the City Council to adopt it at its June 26 meeting.

Chairperson Taniguchi stated that she would accept the Proclamation at the City Council meeting and Community Services Director Jones encouraged other Commissioners to attend.

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved to concur that City Council adopt the 2012 July is Parks and Recreation Month Proclamation. Commissioner Mayeda seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

8C. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Community Services Director Jones recommended that the Commission follow past practice and consider nominating those Commissioners who have the most seniority.

MOTION: Commissioner Greenberg moved to elect Commissioner Mayeda for Chairperson and Commissioner Hays as Vice-Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Commission beginning July 2012. Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

8D. PUEBLO PARK SPECIAL FUNDING

Community Services Director Jones provided background and requested that the Commission consider allocating \$20,000 from available Open Space and Facilities funds to hire a Landscape Design Firm to draft a park development plan for the western section of Pueblo Park. He stated that the firm would look at grade levels, fence line, placement of restroom, and sewer line lateral. He noted that any unspent funds would return to the Open Space and Facilities funds for future allocation.

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved to approve the use of Open Space and Facilities funds in the amount of \$20,000 to develop the Pueblo Park Design Plan. Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

9A. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Has not met.

9B. GRANTS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Gilbert reported that City Council approved the 2010-2011 Financial and Narratives on June 5, 2012.

9C. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

9D. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Community Services Director Jones noted that on July 11 the Commission would be hosting its 55th Parks and Recreation Annual Awards dinner at Toyota Automobile Museum. He stated that the theme for the event is "Highlighting the Past, Embracing the Future" and that awardees noted in Item 7A would be in attendance.

10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

10A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Senior Business Manager Minter noted that the Administrative Services Division Report for May 2012 was included in agenda packets. He reported that summer registration, facility bookings, Park Rangers, and Home Improvement Program have been very busy.

Commissioner Gilbert noted the increase in parking violations and he noted that most violations occur at Columbia Park and Torrance Park.

Responding to Commissioner Hays' inquiry, Senior Business Manager Minter expressed hope that enrollments would increase now that non-resident fees have been reduced. He noted that online enrollments have decreased since the convenience fee was initiated.

10B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION

Park Services Manager Carson noted that the Park Services Division Report for May 2012 was included in agenda materials. He reported that on April 24 City Council approved the ordinance that prohibits bird feeding on public property and that staff has been meeting with Animal Control to discuss a strategy to stop the feeding of all animals

at Wilson Park. He stated that Animal Control has agreed to respond when violations are witnessed and have the ability to fine repeat offenders.

He reported that City Council approved the award for irrigation design for Sea Aire Golf Course on June 12 and that start of construction is anticipated for mid-October. He stated that they have received bids back for weed abatement and are putting together a contract that will begin July 1. He informed Commissioners that staff continues to work on sports court resurfacing and announced the Centennial Plaza ground breaking at El Prado Park on June 19.

Commissioner Gilbert thanked Park Services for planting more Centennial trees.

10C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

Recreation Services Manager Brunette noted that the Recreation Services Division Report for May 2012 was included in agenda packets.

11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC #2

11A. Commissioners Mayeda and Hays thanked fellow Commissioners for their nominations and Commissioners expressed appreciation to Chairperson Taniguchi for a job well done.

11B. Commissioner Gilbert stated that she enjoyed attending the Armed Forces Day parade and participating on the Youth Council selection committee. She announced the Cultural Arts Foundation gala on June 23 and wished Commissioner Hays a happy birthday tomorrow.

11C. Chairperson Taniguchi congratulated Commissioners Mayeda and Hays on their election and wished all fathers a happy Fathers Day.

11D. Community Services Director Jones announced that 10 cherry trees would be planted at De Portola Park on June 24. He congratulated Commissioners Mayeda and Hays and expressed his appreciation to Chairperson Taniguchi for her leadership.

11E. Recreation Services Manager Brunette expressed hope that the Kings' victory may lead to an increase in roller hockey participation.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:26 p.m., Commissioner Gilbert moved to adjourn the meeting to August 8, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Ning seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Taniguchi so ordered.

Approved as Submitted August 8, 2012 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
